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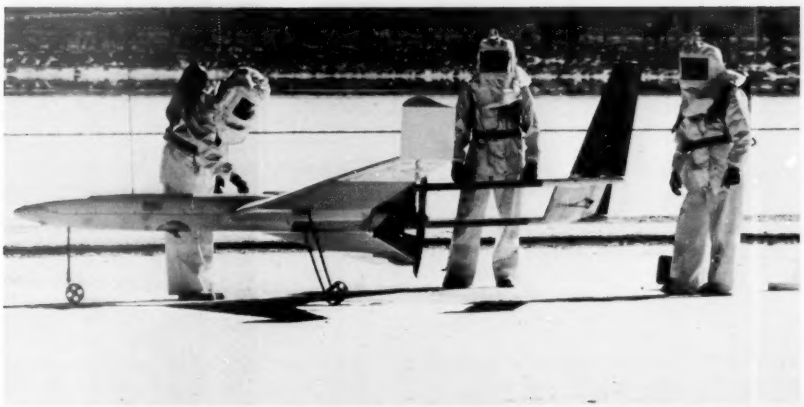

Martians examining an alien airplane? No, just the ground crew preparing Mini-Sniffer for a high-altitude atmospheric sampling flight at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, Calif. Mini-Sniffer's hydrazine engine, developed for use in spacecraft, enables the Mini-Sniffer to fly at extreme altitudes and perform a variety of missions. An airplane concept using Mini-Sniffer technology is under consideration for future exploration of Mars.

Mars Plane pulls out of dive and starts engine for cruise mission, an extended survey of the martian surface